BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 11-26 June30th, 2011

- **Inflation in BC up to 3.1% in May**
- **Vancouver's median family income lower than national average**
- **Approximately 10,343 admissions to BC women's shelters in 2009/10**

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate climbed to 3.1% in May as soaring energy prices (+11.4%) put upward pressure on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).** Excluding energy, the province's inflation rate would have been 2.4%.

Shelter (+0.9%) and transportation (+6.6%) costs were affected by climbing fuel prices. Motorists spent 20.7% more to fill up their tanks, while residents saw even bigger increases (+22.1%) in the cost of oil & other fuel. Travellers were also impacted, with air, ferry, bus and other intercity transportation fares jumping 8.8%.

Renters paid an average of 1.5% more for housing, while the cost of owned accommodation climbed at a somewhat slower pace (+0.8%). However, homeowners did face a notable increase for home & mortgage insurance (+14.6%).

Consumers forked over substantially more (+5.2%) for food, with grocery bills rising 3.6%, and restaurant meals costing 8.5% more than in May 2010. The increasing cost of food was reflected in hikes in the indices for meat, dairy, and bakery & cereal products. The cost of health & personal care supplies and services also climbed (+2.1%) between May of 2010 and May of 2011, but consumers did catch a slight break with the cost of clothing (-0.9%).

Consumer prices were up 3.0% in both Vancouver and Victoria over May of last year, relatively on par with the provincial average.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The Canadian inflation rate (3.7%) was higher than BC's and May marked the largest increase in the CPI since March of 2003.** Nationally, energy prices surged 16.6%, while the cost of other goods and services was up just 2.4%. Among the provinces, inflation rates ranged from 2.8% in Alberta to 4.6% in Nova Scotia. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Production at BC sawmills was 5.0% higher in April than in the same month of 2010.** Although mills in coastal regions of the province posted a decline (-3.2%), ramped-up production from the Interior (+6.0%), where most of the province's mill activity occurs, managed to offset the decline. Canadian production was down slightly (-0.1%), as volume decreased in many of the other big lumber-producing provinces, including Quebec (-2.7%) and Alberta (-8.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Women's Shelters

- **Admissions of women to BC's shelters for abused women totalled 10,343 in the 2009/10 fiscal year.** This translates to a rate of 541 admissions per 100,000 women aged 15 and over, well above the national average (452). A person may be admitted to a shelter more than once during a year. In BC, re-admissions accounted for 39% of total admissions in 2009/10, notably higher than the national average (31%). There were 111 shelters for women operating in the province in 2010 (collectively comprising 1,586 beds), with facility types ranging from emergency shelters to transition houses.

Report **Population Highlights, First Quarter 2011**

Did you know...

Pierre Burton (10%), Farley Mowat (10%) and Margaret Atwood (9%) top the list of authors Canadians would most like to invite to a Canada Day barbecue. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

Nation-wide, there were approximately 64,500 admissions of women to shelters between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. In Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the rates of admissions in 2009/2010 were six to eight times higher than in Manitoba, the province with the highest rate (670 admissions per 100,000 women). Meanwhile, the lowest rate of admission among the provinces was recorded in Newfoundland & Labrador (260).

Most women seek shelter for reasons of abuse, but other common motivating factors include inability to find affordable housing and issues pertaining to mental health. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of women with parental responsibilities brought their children with them to the shelter. Most children (85%) who were admitted to shelters were there because either they or their mother had been abused. Among those women in shelters for reasons of abuse, most (80%) reported that they had been abused by a current or former spouse or common-law partner.

Data Source: S.C., Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Income

- **According to income data derived from personal income tax returns, total median census family income in BC's largest city was $67,550 in 2009.** This was lower than the previous year (-1.9% from 2008) and below the national figure of $68,410. Among other census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in the province, families in Victoria had by far the highest median annual income ($77,840), the eighth highest in the country. Income levels in Kelowna and Abbotsford-Mission were notably lower ($67,070 and $62,370, respectively) than those in the province's capital city.

Nation-wide, the CMA with the highest median income was Ottawa-Gatineau ($89,410), followed by Calgary ($88,410) and Edmonton ($86,250). The lowest family incomes were seen in Sherbrooke ($61,600).

Between 2008 and 2009, the largest increases in median total family income for families were recorded in St. John's (+5.0%), St. John (+2.9%), Ottawa-Gatineau (+2.3%) and Regina (+2.3%). Many areas saw median incomes decline, most notably in Greater Sudbury (-5.7% from 2008).

The median income is the point at which exactly half of families had higher incomes, and half had lower incomes. A Census family refers to a married or a common-law couple, with or without children at home, or a lone-parent of any marital status, with at least one child living at home. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Injury

- **In 2009/10, approximately 15% of Canadians aged 12 and up suffered an injury severe enough to limit their usual activities.** This proportion, representing 4.3 million individuals, was two percentage points higher than that recorded in 2001 (13%). Young people aged 12 to 19 had the highest likelihood of injury, with 27% reporting injuries of this nature. This was close to twice the share of working-age (20 to 64 years) adults (14%) and three times that of older (aged 65 and over) Canadians (9%). Young boys were at greatest risk, with nearly a third (30%) suffering an injury, compared to less than a quarter of girls of the same age group (23%).

Most injuries among adolescents were linked to sports, while seniors were most likely to injure themselves while out walking or undertaking household chores. Falls were the leading cause of injury for all age groups.

Data Source: S.C.'s Canadian Community Health Survey

The Nation

- **Tourism spending in Canada inched 0.1% higher in the first quarter of 2011.** The slight advance came despite a decline in international demand (-3.5%), as tourism spending by Canadian residents was up (+1.0%). Air transport, the largest spending category, climbed 2.4%, contributing most to the national increase. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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Originally published in *Population Highlights*, First Quarter, 2011

Population Highlights, First Quarter 2011

The estimated population of British Columbia totalled 4,563,296 persons as of April 1st, 2011, for an increase of 1.1 per cent over the preceding twelve months. Canada grew at the same rate and compared to the other provinces BC had the sixth strongest growth rate. Alberta and P.E.I. were tied for first place; each recorded an increase of 1.5 per cent whereas Newfoundland and Labrador observed a 0.3 per cent loss over the last twelve months.

The Last Twelve Months: April 2010 to April 2011

BC's population grew by 47,814 persons over the twelve month period ending April 1, 2011. Migration is typically the largest contributor to BC's population growth and since April 1, 2010, about three-quarters of the population gain could be attributed to this component. The remaining 25 per cent was due to natural increase (births minus deaths).

Table 1: Components of BC Population Growth Apr 1, 2010 to Apr 1, 2011

Population April 1, 2010		**4,515,482**
Interprovincial migration		+2,898
Add interprovincial arrivals	+57,503	
Minus interprovincial departures	-54,605	
International migration		+32,832
Add Immigrants	41,889	
Minus Emigrants	-7,582	
Add Other (1)	-1,475	
Natural Increase		+12,084
Add Births	43,550	
Minus Deaths	-31,466	
Population April 1, 2011		**4,563,296**

(1) Other includes Returning Emigrants minus the net change in Temporary Emigrants plus the net change in Non-permanent Residents

Source: Statistics Canada

The First Quarter of 2011

During the first three months of 2011, the population grew by an estimated 9,211 persons (+0.2%). Net international migration (+7,049) accounted for nearly all of the growth followed by natural increase (births minus deaths) of 2,260. On an interprovincial basis, BC recorded a net loss of 98 persons to other provinces and territories in the first quarter. Over this period, 12,598 persons moved to BC while 12,696 persons left BC for other Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 2: Components of BC Population Growth Jan 1, 2011 to Apr 1, 2011

Population January 1, 2011		**4,554,085**
Interprovincial migration		-98
Add interprovincial arrivals	+12,598	
Minus interprovincial departures	-12,696	
International migration		+7,049
Add Immigrants	+7,328	
Minus Emigrants	-1,338	
Add Other (1)	+1,059	
Natural Increase		+2,260
Add Births	10,480	
Minus Deaths	--8,220	
Population April 1, 2011		**4,563,296**

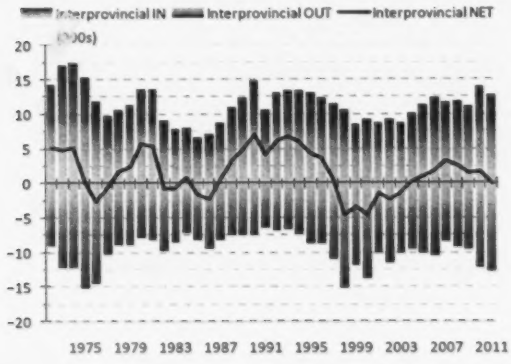
(1) Other includes Returning Emigrants minus the net change in Temporary Emigrants plus the net change in Non-permanent Residents

Source: Statistics Canada

First Quarter Interprovincial Migration

Historically, BC has had the greatest exchange of population with Alberta and this quarter was no different. During the first three months of 2011, the net flow between BC and Alberta totalled -893 persons, with 5,811 people moving from Alberta to BC and 6,704 BC residents moving to Alberta. On the other hand, BC recorded net gains from Saskatchewan (+372) and Manitoba (+442). During the first quarter, only Alberta and the Yukon reported net gains due to interprovincial migration. Nova Scotia observed the largest net loss at 1,034 persons.

Figure 1: 1st Quarter Interprovincial Migration, BC



Source: Statistics Canada

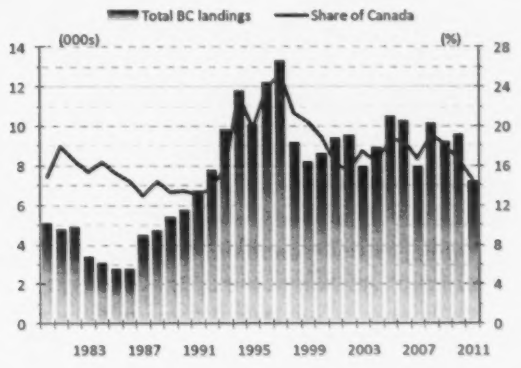
This is the first time in nearly nine years that BC has recorded a quarterly net loss to other provinces. Not since the second quarter of 2003 has BC ventured into negative territory. It should be noted however that these estimates are not final but *preliminary*. Statistics Canada releases updated or final population estimates once a year in September. For the other three releases preliminary population estimates are estimated using information that is less complete and/or reliable, albeit more timely, than used for updated or final estimates. Consequently, the preliminary estimates tend to be more volatile than the updated or final estimates but will more often than not reflect the overall trend. We will have to wait until September 2011 to see whether or not this quarterly net loss holds, however we can be reasonably assured that interprovincial migration to BC appears to be trending down.

For more information on how Statistics Canada develops interprovincial migration estimates, please see the Statistics Canada publication "Population and Family Estimation Methods at Statistics Canada" catalogue number 91-528.

First Quarter International Migration

During the first three months of 2011 7,328 international immigrants arrived in BC, representing 14.8 per cent of the total 49,538 new comers to Canada. BC, after Ontario and Quebec, has been the third most popular province of destination for immigrants arriving in recent years. During the last decade, the number of immigrants settling in BC has been relatively stable at about 35,000 to 45,000 persons per year. A majority of these new comers settled in the Greater Vancouver area.

Figure 2: 1st Quarter International Immigration, BC

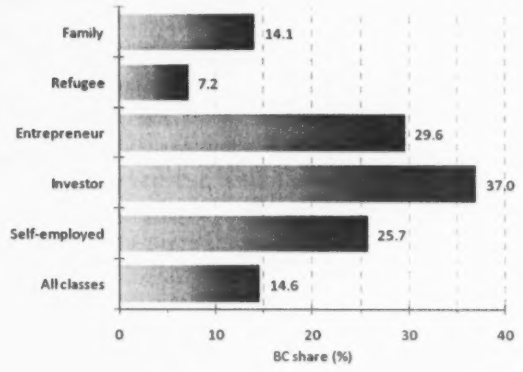


Source: Statistics Canada

Under the current federal immigration policy, immigrants are admitted to the country under various themes and categories. Reunification of family members/relatives and filling domestic labour shortages are two of the top priorities of Canadian immigration. This has been reflected by the higher proportions of immigrants admitted under the family and economic categories.

Of all the international immigrants arriving in the first quarter of 2011, 28.8 per cent were in the family class, 43.5 per cent were in the independent skilled worker class, 12.6 per cent were in the business class, and only 4.5 were per cent in the refugee class. When compared to other provinces/territories, BC tends to attract a relatively higher share of immigrants in the economic class and a smaller proportion in the refugee class. During this period, BC absorbed 36.2 per cent of all immigrants admitted to Canada under the investor, entrepreneur or self-employed classes but only 7.2 per cent in the refugee class.

Figure 3: BC Immigration by Class, Q1- 2011



Source: Statistics Canada

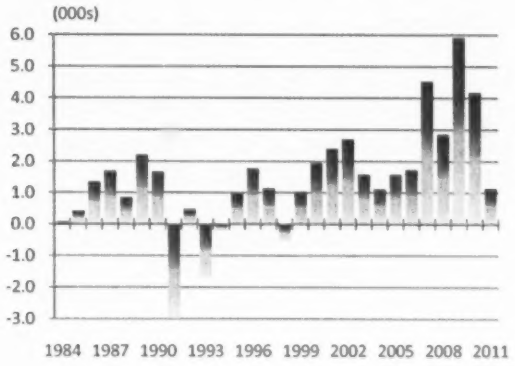
Over the past two decades the majority of immigrants to BC have come from Asia. Of the Asian regions, China is still the leading source country of immigrants to BC and Canada, accounting for 20.7 per cent of all landings in BC during the last quarter. Over the last ten years, China, India, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, Iran, USA and England have consistently been the top source countries. More often than not, the top five source countries combined are responsible for between 55 to 65 per cent of all immigrants landed in the province.

Non-permanent Residents

Non permanent residents (NPRs) are foreign individuals who are legally granted the right to live in Canada on a temporary basis. They are mainly students and temporary workers but may also be persons holding a minister's permit or refugee claimants. In addition, the permits and authorizations may include coverage for family members of the principle document holder; these individuals are also considered part of the NPR population. As NPRs have played an increasingly important role in the economic development of Canada over the last few decades, Statistics Canada decided to include this population in the international migration component.

The number of NPRs tends to fluctuate over time due to the temporary nature of the population and seasonality factors. During the first quarter of 2011, the number of NPR's increased by 1,135 individuals. This accounted for 12.3 per cent of the total population growth in BC during the first three months of 2011.

Figure 4: 1st Quarter Net Change in NPRs, BC



Source: Statistics Canada

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,563.3	1.1
Canada	34,349.2	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Apr 2011	3,174	-0.9
Merchandise Exports - Apr 2011	2,422	-9.1
Retail Sales - Apr 2011	4,959	1.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - May 2011)		
BC	3.1	2.1
Vancouver	3.0	2.3
Victoria	3.0	1.9
Canada	3.7	2.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	May 2011	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	5.2	
Labour Force - BC	2,464.4	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,278.1	0.2
Unemployed - BC	186.3	-4.3
		Apr 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.6	7.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.4	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 29/2011	Jun 30/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.60
- 5 year	5.39	5.89
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 29/2011	Jun 30/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9705	1.0606
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0303	0.9393
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May 2011	
BC	831.56	0.5
Canada	837.44	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles 2010

The 2010 Socio-Economic Profiles are now available. These profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health and risk factors for children and youth. Some special regions and the Indices should be available by the end of June.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/choose.asp

2010 BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey Summary Report

The 2010 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted with former students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Approximately six months later, from January to April of 2010, 2,750 former students from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) participated in survey telephone interviews - the gross response rate was 56 percent. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf

File Finder

BC Stats powerful new tool to find small area data on the web site. Users can filter on an area type or a specific location, time period, product, and subject. The File Finder app is still very much under development and only a few products have been linked into it as yet, but it is already quite useful so we decided to share it with you.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/filefinder.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, June 2011
- Consumer Price Index, May 2011

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, June 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, June 2011

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